

*35*  
step 16044 for display of the total price.-.

Page 24, line 1, delete "5135";

line 3, change "130" to -271-;

line 4, change "160" to -284-; and

change "190" to -191-.

Page 25, line 9, change "17090" to -17070-; and

change "17010" to -17080-;

line 12, change "17100" to -17080-; and

after "..." insert *If the block does not contain a station-type code indicating*

*36*  
a Checkout station, there is no additional processing.-.

Page 26, line 4, change "914" to -714-;

line 8, delete "copending"; and

line 9, after "1995," insert *now U.S. Patent No. 5,727,153 issued*

*37*  
March 10, 1998, -.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-11 without prejudice of disclaimer, and add new claims 12-93, as follows:

*Sub*  
*CO*

--12. A processing system for a system including a plurality of portable housings transported by consumers, each housing containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, a store and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

a first computer; and

a second computer,

*BO*

wherein the first computer includes circuitry for sending first signals to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to the second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses, each of the plurality of network addresses corresponding to a respective computer in a respective computer network, and wherein the second computer includes circuitry for receiving first signals, and wherein the system further includes:

a plurality first processors, each located in one of the plurality of homes, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, for sending a memory signal to a portable housing in the plurality of housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product; and

a second processor, in the store, for receiving the memory signal from a portable housing in the plurality of housings, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

13. The processing system of claim 12 wherein each housing is a card.

14. The processing system of claim 12 wherein each housing further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a random access memory.

15. The processing system of claim 12 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

16. The processing system of claim 12 wherein the store includes a receiver for receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and a determiner for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal, received by the second processor, corresponds to the purchase signal.

17. The processing system of claim 16 wherein the store further includes an electromagnetic detector for generating the purchase signal.

18. The processing system of claim 16 wherein the store further includes a bar code reader for generating the purchase signal.

19. The processing system of claim 12 wherein each first processor includes a computer spatially removed from the second computer.

20. In a system including a store, a plurality of portable housings each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, and a routing system for receiving a signal and

generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, a method comprising:

sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses, each of the plurality of network addresses corresponding to a respective computer in a respective computer network;

receiving first signals, and

*BD*  
the step, performed in one of the homes, of

sending, responsive to a first signal received in the previous step, a memory signal to a portable housing in the plurality of housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product, and

*CI*  
the step of

subsequently, moving the portable housing to the store, and

*BD*  
the step, performed in the store, of

receiving the memory signal from the portable housing, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

21. The method of claim 20 further including executing a program stored in a random access memory in the portable housing.

22. The method of claim 20 further including sending, in the telecommunications signal,

a signal identifying a consumer.

23. The method of claim 20 further including the steps, performed in the store, of receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

*BE*  
*C*

24. The method of claim 20 further including the steps, performed in the store, of generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product; receiving the purchase signal; and determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

25. The method of claim 20 further including the steps, performed in the store, of generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product; receiving a purchase signal; and determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

26. A processing system for a system including a plurality of portable housings

transported by consumers, each housing containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, a store and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating a routing signal in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

a first computer; and

a second computer,

wherein the first computer includes circuitry for sending first signals to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to the second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers, and wherein the second computer includes circuitry for receiving first signals, and wherein the system further includes:

a plurality first processors, each located in one of the plurality of homes, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, for sending a memory signal to a portable housing in the plurality of housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product; and

a second processor, in the store, for receiving the memory signal from a portable housing in the plurality of housings, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

27. The processing system of claim 26 wherein each housing is a card.

28. The processing system of claim 26 wherein each housing further contains a

processing unit that executes a program stored in a random access memory.

29. The processing system of claim 26 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

30. The processing system of claim 26 wherein the store further includes a receiver for receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and a determiner for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal, received by the second processor, corresponds to the purchase signal.

31. The processing system of claim 30 wherein the store further includes an electromagnetic detector for generating the purchase signal.

32. The processing system of claim 30 wherein the store further includes a bar code reader for generating the purchase signal.

33. The processing system of claim 26 wherein each first processor includes a computer spatially removed from the second computer.

34. In a system including a store, a plurality of portable housings each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating a routing signal in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the

routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, a method comprising:

    sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers;

    receiving first signals, and

the step, performed in one of the homes, of

    sending, responsive to a first signal received in the previous step, a memory signal to a portable housing in the plurality of housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product, and

the step of

    subsequently, moving the portable housing to the store, and

the step, performed in the store, of

    receiving the memory signal from the portable housing, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

35. The method of claim 34 further including executing a program stored in a random access memory in the portable housing.

36. The method of claim 34 further including sending, in the telecommunications signal, a signal identifying a consumer.

37. The method of claim 34 further including the steps, performed in the store, of receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

38. The method of claim 34 further including the steps, performed in the store, of generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product; receiving the purchase signal; and determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

39. The method of claim 34 further including the steps, performed in the store, of generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product; receiving a purchase signal; and determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

40. A processing system for a system including a store, a plurality of portable housings each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, and a routing system for receiving a

signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

means for sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses, each of the plurality of network addresses corresponding to a respective computer in a respective computer network;

means for receiving first signals;

means for sending, responsive to a first signal received by the previous means, a memory signal to a portable housing in the plurality of housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product, the means for sending being located in one of the homes; and

means for receiving the memory signal from the portable housing in the store, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

41. The processing system of claim 40 wherein each housing is a card.

42. The processing system of claim 40 wherein each housing further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a random access memory.

43. The processing system of claim 40 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

44. The processing system of claim 40 wherein the store includes means for receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and means for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

45. The processing system of claim 40 wherein the store includes means for generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product; means for receiving the purchase signal; and means for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

46. The processing system of claim 40 wherein the store includes means for generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product; means for receiving a purchase signal; and means for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

47. A processing system for a system including a store, a plurality of portable housings each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, and a routing system for receiving a

signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

means for sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers;

means for receiving first signals;

means for sending, responsive to a first signal received by the previous means, a memory signal to a portable housing in the plurality of housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product, the means for sending being located in one of the homes; and

means for receiving the memory signal from the portable housing in the store, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

48. The processing system of claim 47 wherein each housing is a card.

49. The processing system of claim 47 wherein each housing further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a random access memory.

50. The processing system of claim 47 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

51. The processing system of claim 47 wherein the store includes means for receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and means for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

52. The processing system of claim 47 wherein the store includes means for generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product; means for receiving the purchase signal; and means for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

53. The processing system of claim 47 wherein the store includes means for generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product; means for receiving a purchase signal; and means for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

54. A processing system for a system including a first computer, a second computer, a plurality of portable housings each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, a store

with a first receiver that receives signals from the plurality of portable housings to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

circuitry, in the first computer, that sends first signals to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to the second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses, each of the plurality of network addresses corresponding to a respective computer in a respective computer network, thereby enabling the second computer to receive first signals; and

a plurality of home computers, each located in one of the plurality of homes, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, for sending a memory signal to a portable housing in the plurality of housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product.

55. The processing system of claim 54 wherein each housing is a card.

56. The processing system of claim 54 wherein each housing further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a random access memory.

57. The processing system of claim 54 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

58. The processing system of claim 54 further including  
a second receiver that receives a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and  
a determiner for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory  
signal, received by the first receiver, corresponds to the purchase signal.

59. The processing system of claim 58 further including  
an electromagnetic detector for generating the purchase signal.

60. The processing system of claim 58 further including  
a bar code reader for generating the purchase signal.

61. In a system including a store, a plurality of portable housings each containing an  
electronic memory, a plurality of homes, and a routing system for receiving a signal and  
generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the  
routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, a method comprising:  
sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal  
including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a  
second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses, each  
of the plurality of network addresses corresponding to a respective computer in a respective  
computer network, thereby enabling the second computer to receive first signals; and  
the step, performed in one of the homes, of  
sending, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, a memory signal to

a portable housing in the plurality of housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product, and

the step of

subsequently, moving the portable housing to the store, and

the step, performed in the store, of

receiving the memory signal from the portable housing, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

62. The method of claim 61 further including executing a program stored in a random access memory in the portable housing.

63. The method of claim 61 further including sending, in the telecommunications signal, a signal identifying a consumer.

64. The method of claim 61 further including the steps, performed in the store, of receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

65. The method of claim 61 further including the steps, performed in the store, of generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

receiving the purchase signal; and  
determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to  
the purchase signal.

66. The method of claim 61 further including the steps, performed in the store, of  
generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to  
a product;

receiving a purchase signal; and  
determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to  
the purchase signal.

67. A processing system for a system including a first computer, a second computer, a  
plurality of portable housings each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, a store  
with a first receiver that receives signals from the plurality of portable housings to send a  
telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path, and a routing  
system for receiving a signal and generating a routing signal in response to an inter-network  
address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area  
communication links, the processing system comprising:

circuitry, in the first computer, that sends first signals to the routing system, each first  
signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding  
to the second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals,  
each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path

between the first and second computers, thereby enabling the second computer to receive first signals; and

a plurality of home computers, each located in one of the plurality of homes, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, for sending a memory signal to a portable housing in the plurality of housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product.

68. The processing system of claim 67 wherein each housing is a card.

69. The processing system of claim 67 wherein each housing further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a random access memory.

70. The processing system of claim 67 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

71. The processing system of claim 67 further including a second receiver that receives a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and a determiner for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal, received by the first receiver, corresponds to the purchase signal.

72. The processing system of claim 67 further including an electromagnetic detector for generating the purchase signal.

73. The processing system of claim 67 further including  
a bar code reader for generating the purchase signal.

74. In a system including a store, a plurality of portable housings each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating a routing signal in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, a method comprising:

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CJ  
B8  
sending, from a first computer, a first signal to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers, thereby enabling the second computer to receive first signals; and the step, performed in one of the homes, of

sending, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, a memory signal to a portable housing in the plurality of housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product, and

the step of

subsequently, moving the portable housing to the store, and  
the step, performed in the store, of

receiving the memory signal from the portable housing, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

75. The method of claim 74 further including executing a program stored in a random access memory in the portable housing.

76. The method of claim 74 further including sending, in the telecommunications signal, a signal identifying a consumer.

77. The method of claim 74 further including the steps, performed in the store, of receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

78. The method of claim 74 further including the steps, performed in the store, of generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product; receiving the purchase signal; and determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

79. The method of claim 74 further including the steps, performed in the store, of generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product; receiving a purchase signal; and

determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

80. A processing system for a system including a plurality of portable housings each containing an electronic memory, a store with a first receiver that receives signals from the plurality of portable housings to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path, a plurality of homes, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

means for sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses, each of the plurality of network addresses corresponding to a respective computer in a respective computer network, thereby enabling the second computer to receive first signals; and

means for sending, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, a memory signal to a portable housing in the plurality of housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product, the means for sending being located in one of the homes.

81. The processing system of claim 80 wherein each housing is a card.

82. The processing system of claim 80 wherein each housing further contains a

processing unit that executes a program stored in a random access memory.

83. The processing system of claim 80 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

84. The processing system of claim 80 wherein the store includes a second receiver that receives a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and means for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

85. The processing system of claim 80 wherein the store includes means for generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product; a second receiver that receives the purchase signal; and means for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

86. The processing system of claim 80 wherein the store includes means for generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product; a second receiver that receives a purchase signal; and means for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal

corresponds to the purchase signal.

87. A processing system for a system including a plurality of portable housings each containing an electronic memory, a store with a first receiver that receives signals from the plurality of portable housings to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path, a plurality of homes, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

means for sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers, thereby enabling the second computer to receive first signals; and

means for sending, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, a memory signal to a portable housing in the plurality of housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product, the means for sending being located in one of the homes.

88. The processing system of claim 87 wherein each housing is a card.

89. The processing system of claim 87 wherein each housing further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a random access memory.

90. The processing system of claim 87 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

91. The processing system of claim 87 wherein the store includes a second receiver that receives a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and means for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

92. The processing system of claim 87 wherein the store includes means for generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product; a second receiver that receives the purchase signal; and means for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

93. The processing system of claim 87 wherein the store includes means for generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product; a second receiver that receives a purchase signal; and means for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.--